

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-01 NSC-06 /036 W
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P R 101740Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4057
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 0180

RIO FOR CODEL RUESS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: MOORHEAD DELEGATION MEDIA PLAY (CODEL RUESS)

SUMMARY: MEDIA PLAY RE MOORHEAD DELEGATION VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE
AND GENERALLY POSITIVE, STRESSING THAT WHILE THE PRINCIPAL
FOCUS OF THE DELEGATION WAS ECONOMIC, THE DELEGATION ALSO
WAS INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS, NUCLEAR POLICY, TRADE,
THE SAFETY OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN IN ARGENTINA, AND IN
IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA.
MOORHEAD DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON ANTI-SEMITISM IN
ARGENTINA WAS WIDELY MISREPORTED DESPITE DISTRIBUTION OF
THE TEXT OF HIS REMARKS. END OF SUMMARY.
THE FOLLOWING IS A DAY-BY-DAY ACCOUNT OF MOORHEAD DELEGATION
MEDIA PLAY:

JAN. 4: DAY AFTER ARRIVAL PRESS STORIES GAVE
STRAIGHT PLAY TO MOORHEAD AIRPORT REMARKS AND
STATEMENT SAYING THAT WHILE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF
VISIT WAS ECONOMIC, THE DELEGATION ALSO WOULD
LOOK INTO HUMAN RIGHTS, NUCLEAR POLICY, TRADE,
SAFETY OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND POSSIBILITIES OF
IMPROVING U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. WIDE PHOTO
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COVERAGE OF AIRPORT ARRIVAL. SOME RADIO PLAY.

JAN 5: STRAIGHT PLAY OF DELEGATION VISITS TO
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. A LA OPINION WRITER NOTED
THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS POLITICAL AS
WELL AS ECONOMIC AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS REMAINED
ON THE AGENDA. THIS ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THE

ECONOMY MINISTRY WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING THE DELEGATION AND THAT MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ WAS READY TO ANSWER "EVEN QUESTIONS WHICH DO NOT RELATE TO HIS SPECIFIC JOB, SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS." SOME RADIO PLAY."

JAN 6: DETAILED COVERAGE OF DELEGATION SCHEDULE THE DAY BEFORE, INCLUDING VISITS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, AND MEETINGS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. SAMPLE HEADLINES: "THE U.S. LEGISLATORS FINISH THEIR VISIT--THEY SHOW INTEREST IN THE SITUATION OF SOME DETAINED AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER," LA PRENSA. "THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION PRAISES THE ECONOMI PLAN," EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL. "U.S. VISITORS TALK ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS," BUENOS AIRES HERALD. ALL PAPERS SAID REP. CONTE WOULD SEE JACOBO TIMMERMAN JAN 6. LA OPINION QUOTED MOORHEAD AS SAYING, AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED FROM A DELEGATION OF THE ARGENTINE ISRAELI ASSOCIATIONS THAT "IN ARGENTINA THERE EXISTS LESS ANTISEMITISM THAN IS REFLECTED IN NORTH-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS." CLARIN SAID THAT THE LEGISLATORS SAID THAT WHILE "THERE IS SOME ANTISEMITISM" IN ARGENTINA, "IT DOESN'T WHAT IS REFLECTED IN THE NORTHEAMERICAN PRESS." A FEW NEWSPAPERS MENTION WHAT APPEARED AS A CLASH UNCLASSIFIED

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BETWEEN AN EMBASSY INTERPRETER AND A DELEGATION AIDE (REFERRED TO AS A "LEGISLATOR" OR "SENATOR" BY THE PRESS) OVER A QUESTION A REPORTER ASKED MOORHEAD ON THE LIST OF MISSING PERSONS BROUGHT TO ARGENTINA BY SECRETARY VANCE. SOME RADIO PLAY.

JAN 7: THE PRESS GAVE INACCURATE AND GARBLED COVERAGE TO MOORHEAD'S DEPARTURE REMARKS ON ARGENTINE ANTISEMITISM AT EZEIZA AIRPORT. IN THE TEXT OF HIS REMARKS DISTRIBUTED BY USIS, MOORHEAD SAID: "I WANT TO CLARIFY SOMETHING THAT I WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, AND THIS IS ON THE SUBJECT OF ANTISEMITISM. THE GROUP THAT WE MET WITH SAID THERE WAS LESS ANTISEMITISM THAN THE U.S. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED. MY OBSERVATIONS, MY DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS STILL A SERIOUS PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE BETTER THAN IT WAS. THIS IS STILL A SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM..." IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION "I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU NOW, CAN YOU GO BACK AND REASSURE THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, AFTER SEEING HOW THE JEWISH COMMUNITY LIVES IN ARGENTINA?" MOORHEAD RESPONDED "I WILL TRY TO GIVE THE U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY AS ACCURATE AN ACCOUNT, AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE,

OF THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA." MOORHEAD'S REMARKS WERE CORRECTLY REPORTED BY ONLY LA PRENSA AMONG THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, WHICH PUBLISHED THE USIS TEXT ON ITS FIRST PAGE. LA NACION REPORTED THAT MOORHEAD "REPEATED" TO TELAM (GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY) THAT "THERE IS MUCH LESS ANTISEMITISM IN ARGENTINA THAN WHAT IS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE U.S."

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-----107942 102042Z /41

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4058
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD, IN A NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS (PRIVATE NEWS AGENCY) STORY, SAID MOORHEAD SAID "THERE STILL EXISTS 'A SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM' IN ARGENTINA". LA OPINION SAID MOORHEAD CONFIRMED AT EZEIZA THAT - ACCORDING TO WHAT THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION OF ARGENTINE ISRAELI ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA) HAD TOLD HIM 'THERE IS LESS ANTISEMITISM THAN WHAT IS STATED IN THE NORTHAMERICAN PRESS'. MOORHEAD HAD MANIFESTED THE SAME OPINION THURSDAY MORNING TO A LA OPINION EDITOR WITH WHOM HE CONVERSED AT THE EMBASSY. "I WAS STRUCK", HE SAID, BY THE WAY IN WHICH THE DIRECTORS OF THE DAIA INSISTED ON MAKING CLEAR THAT, BEFORE EVERYTHIN, THEY WERE ARGENTINES AND THEIR INFORMATION SHOWED A PANORAMA DIFFERENT FROM THAT FOUND IN THE PAGES OF THE NEW YORK TIMES." CLARIN REPORTED THAT MOORHEAD SAID "THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IS STILL SERIOUS IN ARGENTINE," AND THAT HE WOULD TAKE TO THE U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY" MOST ACCURATE REPORT POSSIBLE ON THE SITUATION OF ISRAELI RESIDENTS IN ARGENTINA." DESPITE INACCURATE REPORTING OF MOORHEAD'S REMARKS ON ARGENTINE ANTISEMITISM, THE PRESS STORIES WERE FAVORABLE, NOTING THAT THE VISITORS HAD PRAISED THE

MARTINEZ DE HOZ ECONOMIC RECORD AND MOORHEAD HAD
PROMISED THAT DELEGATION MEMBERS WOULD FAVOR LOOSENING
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HUMAN RIGHTS RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL OR-
GANIZATION LOANS TO ARGENTINA.
CASTRO

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